to receive the reply. There are two parts of this worry. One is that in the implementation of this Policy, unless there are corresponding harmonious; simultaneous changes brought about in the Reserve Bank's regulation, in the Customs regulations, the implementation of the Trade Policy will not be effective. Would the hon. Minister inform us what changes are being brought about and with what kind of rapidity or speed?

Secondly, he spoke also about trade in Rupee-payment areas. There is indeed a very great worry here. The Rouble has collapsed as a negotiable currency. It is not even acceptable within the former Soviet Union. So, going by the old established norms of Rupee-Rouble Trade, there is an absurd exchange situation that has come about. The Rouble has virtually become equal to Rs. 400/- I just do not understand what kind of Trade Policy can be enforceable in the Rupee-payment areas if this king of un-real Rupee-Rouble exchange obtains. Would the hon. Minister please clarify these two aspects?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I entirely share the hon. Member Shri Jaswant Singh's plea that there must be a harmonious action on the part of the Customs, Reserve Bank etc. While I think we are all agreed that it should be done, I must confess that the speed with which it is being done in some other sectors does not quite match the speed with which Policy has been made in the industrial, trade and fiscal sectors. This is a criticism. I accept it. But on Customs, we have taken a major step forward. We have now published the Harmonised Code of Classification. The Harmonised Code of Classification is quite comparable with what is used in all countries in the world. The Customs have assured us that they will abide by the Harmonised Code which was prepared in consultation with them. This should go a long way in removing the grievances of both the importers and exporters.

We have also had discussions with the Finance Ministry to clear a number of other bottlenecks in the customs. I think, the Finance Ministry is also doing a major exercise on improving the customs.

On RBI, my only concern is the curves. These are being lifted. I hope, the remaining curbs will be lifted. Any detailed question on that should be addressed to the Finance Minister. I agree that we should be more faster on this.

On the rupee-rouble trade, the collapse of the rouble is an absurd rate one of the reasons why we are following a policy of compressing exports to RPA countries. It is an artificial rate. It is we will not do business in roubles. In fact, we are doing business in rupees. Even there, the protocol is valid only up to 31st December. Our officers and the Soviet authorities are in discussion. I expect that a team will go from India to the Soviet Union for the final round of discussion in the middle of this month. One of the issues that will come up is the rupee-rouble rate. We have done our home work. We are ready. We are looking forward to signing a proper agreement.

Coffee Plantation In Orissa

*225 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased plantation in Orissa;

(a) whether there is a great scope for increasing areas under coffee plantation in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter so far;

(c) whether the Coffee Board has drawn up any scheme to grow coffee in that state; and

(d) if so, the details therefor and the area identified in the state for growing coffee during the Eight Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Coffee Board has identified 6335 ha. falling in the Koraput, Kalahandi, Ganjam and Phulbani Districts of Orissa as suitable for Coffee growing. Of this, an area of 1372 ha. is presently under this crop. The thrust of present policy is to consolidate the development of existing areas under coffee.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question restricted to Orissa.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the climatic conditions of several districts in Orissa State are suitable foR growing coffee. However, it is strongly felt that the Government officials, private entrepreneurs as well as the Coffee Board are not providing adequate encouragement for the growing of coffee. As the Indian coffee has good demand even in foreign markets, do we have the assurance from the dynamic hon. Union Minister about whether the Centre will coordinate with the State Governments and the Coffee Board to ensure that greater acreage is brought under coffee cultivation in Orissa?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, the hon. Member is asking for an assurance and that we will most willingly give except that keeping in mind the present world situation in coffee trade, it is our policy to first consolidate the areas where coffee is already growing and them to proceed with further acreage. Whatever cooperation the State Government will seek and whatever cooperation we can initiate, will always be available.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to prevent large scale migration of labour and side by side providing gainful employment to them, whether the Central Government will actively consider the proposal to extend the area of coffee plantation particularly in the non-traditional districts of Kalahandi, Phulbani, Koraput, Ganjam and even Mayurbhanj Also, I would like to know whether the Government will introduce and propagate the speciality coffee, namely, Mysore Nuggets Extra Bold variety in the near future.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: This is just an amplification the hon. Member wants of the policy that we have given. In fact, Koraput, Kalahandi, Ganjam and Phulbhani are the areas which we have identified where 6,335 hectares of land is available for growing coffee. We are already growing coffee in the area of 1,372 hectares. As I said earlier, we would like to consolidate this first before we go into greater acreage.

So far as migration of labour is concerned, certainly as the production of coffee grows and it becomes more profitable, we are quite confident that labour will not migrate from that area. We already have the demonstration farms and extension schemes from lap to land scheme by which we are providing assistance to the coffee growers. There are also schemes available for financial assistance both in terms of subsidy and subsidised interest rates. As I said, whatever specialist help that is required, will certainly be made available by the Coffee Board.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: The hon. Member had put a question about Kalahandi, Phulabani and others. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER:This is an opportune moment to the back benchers and let it be used properly.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: The Government had already occupied the land of the Adivasi people and they are being exploited. The Taramakant tea plantation in the Adivasi area is more better than the Assam tea plantation. I request the Minister to please look into the matter and do the needful as the people there are suffering and sometimes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask a question.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: How many acres of land had been acquired

by the Government in the Taramakant tea plantation area?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: With respect to the hon. Member I submit that the notice is for coffee and not for tea. But if the Member has any information.

MR. SPEAKER: He is trying to understand whether any land had been acquired for coffee or tea and if yes he wants to know how much of land was acquired.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: We do not acquire the land as it is a State subject. However, what we would certainly welcome is that if any problem is being faced by the Adivasis or it is known to the hon. Member, if that information is given to us, we will certainly pay to utmost attention to it.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Sir, Daribadi is in the district of Phulbani and it is located at a most higher altitude in Orissa from the sea level. It is called the Darjeeling of Orissa. Phulbani and Bolangir districts have been declared as backward districts as well as 'no industry'districts by the State Government. It has conducive fertility and congenial weather conditions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will give priority on this consideration, to take up these districts and include them for implementation of the project in a big way.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, the hon. Member's desire for us to help the Darjeeling of Orissa is certainly most welcome. To begin with, I assure the hon. Member that I will take the first opportunity to visit the Darjeeling of Orissa and whatever help is part of the scheme that has already been laid down and whatever help we can give to that area, we will certainly be happy to give.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that around 6,335 hectares of land is available in Orissa for coffee plantation and out of this only 1,300 hectares have been utilised. There are districts like Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj where coffee can be planted and those areas have not been identified, due to the attitude of the Coffee Board on the consolidation. What is the meaning of consolidation? The coffee plantation is already there in 1,300 hectares. The demand is that more areas have to be identified and the point is whether Coffee Board is going to utilise those extra areas available in those four districts and other areas of the other districts.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: The hon. Member has asked a very good question. I must explain that the consolidation relates to total productivity that we are able to get from the areas in which coffee is already produced. There are other problems. There are problems of fighting pests; there are problems of production. We want to ensure that coffee grown in Orissa gets the same conditions that are available in other parts of the country, if not better. As and when we are able to expand the acreage, we will certainly encourage the expansion of acreage. It also depends on the price that is avaible to us in the world market and the price agreement has to be reached under the National Coffee Agreement. There is some uncertainty which is the reason why we are not concentration on further acreage before we consolidate what we already have got.

Import of Rubber

*226. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters of rubber goods are allowed to import rubber; and

(b) if so, the reason thereof and the quantum and value of such imports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.